

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

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595 Art. 139. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to develop the organizational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people, citizens of the Georgian SSR are guaranteed the right to unite in public organizations: trade unions, cooperative societies, youth organizations, sport and defence organizations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; and the most active and politically conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to strengthen and develop the socialist system and is the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both public and state.

• [647] Art. 140. Citizens of the Georgian SSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator.

Art. 141. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

Art. 142. The Georgian SSR affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for scientific activities, or for struggling for national liberation.

Art. 143. It is the duty of every citizen of the Georgian SSR to abide by the Constitution of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

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[42] Art. 144. It is the duty of every citizen of the Georgian SSR to safeguard and fortify public, socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public, socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 145. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the Armed Forces of the USSR is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 146. To defend the country is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Georgian SSR. Treason to the motherland - violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes.

Chapter XIII. The Electoral System

666 Art. 147. Members of all Soviets of Working People's Deputies -